FOUR LIGHTS

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CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS PROTEST CIVIL DEFENSE

Taking a Stand Against Civil Defense

By ORLIE PELL

Orlie Pell, member of the National Board of the WILPF, and of the War Resisters' League, is one of twenty pacifists charged with violating the New York State Civil Defense Emergency Act. All the defendants were arrested for refusing to take shelter during the nation-wide practice air-raid drill last June 15. Participating in the demonstration were the War Resisters' League, the N. Y. Fellowship of Reconciliation, and representatives of the Catholic Worker.

For twenty years or more I have stood for the principle of conscientious objection to war. As a woman, I was never subject to the draft, so my belief remained untested in practice. But the H-bomb drill in New York City on June 15, 1955, seemed to me a point where preparation for war DID touch me directly as a person.

A hypothetical bomb was supposed to have landed in Brooklyn, and civilians throughout New York City were to step off the streets for ten mi utes. In the light of what we know about the destructive power of the hydrogen bomb and the lethal effects of the fall-out through contamination of air, rain, water, food, etc., stepping into a doorway temporarily was obviously not a realistic defense or a genuine effort to save human lives.

It seemed to me morally wrong for the government deliberately to foster an ILLUSION of civilian safety, and in this way to encourage acceptance by the people of a suicidal type of warfare. Moreover, in view of the previous build-up through press, radio and television, the drill had many of the ear-marks of psychological preparation for war—of a process of conditioning people to the idea of the H-bomb being used. In line with my principles, the honorable thing to do was to take a stand against participation in the drill, even at the risk of arrest.

I would, of course be willing and glad to cooperate in any genuine effort to save human lives, such as the work of the Quaker medical units that have been developed at various times in various countries. I approve of, and would cooperate with, a disaster relief agency, set up under the control of a non-military branch of the government for the purpose of relieving any suffering resulting from disaster—natural or man-made. I sincerely trust that such a non-military disaster agency may be established, or that failing this, pacifist groups in this country may think seriously of developing their own instruments for relieving human suffering in emergency situations. Pacifists would continue to recognize, of course, that such aid would not be an answer to the threat of atomic warfare; that the only real defense against the H-bomb is to do away with war.

Conscientious Objectors in Sweden

One of the Executive members of the Swedish Section (WILPF), Sweden's best known lady journalist, Barbro Alving, refused to serve in Civil Defense in opposition to existing laws. Her step, giving preference to prison rather than to preparation for an atomic war, was taken in order to arouse public opinion. The Swedish Quakers had approached their government asking for legislation for conscientious objectors to civil defense comparable to the legislation on military service. The Annual Meeting of the Swedish Section of the WILPF also sent a letter to the Government asking for the same. Most papers in Sweden were favorable to such legislation and at the time of the International Executive Committee last July, legislation was in preparation by the Civil Defense authorities with due consideration given to conscientious objectors.

(Drawn from the report of the Swedish Section to the International Executive meeting in Hamburg, Germany, July 1955.)

Resolution on Legislation for Conscientious Objection

The International Executive Committee of the WILPF, meeting in Hamburg, July 25-31, 1955,

BELIEVING that countries which claim to respect the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, should not demand from any of their nationals service which it is contrary to their conscience to give, URGES . . .

(1) that, where this has not already been introduced, legislation should be prepared, without delay, allowing conscientious objection to compulsory military service, both combatant and non-combatant, either unconditionally or subject to the performance of alternative civilian service, and

(2) that legal provision should also be made for conscientious objection to war preparations such as civil defense service or exercises.

One last word. How do I, as a conscientious objector in a democratic country, justify the deliberate breaking of a law duly passed by a majority of my fellow citizens? Such an action cannot be taken lightly or casually. It would not be justified in the case of a law which the person merely dislikes, or thinks unfortunate or even unwise. It can be done only where the act commanded by the law goes directly against her most deeply-held convictions; when she faces her INNERMOST self and feels deep down inside: here I stand—I can do no other.

FOUR LIGHTS

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BOARD OF EDITORS

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Gladys Walser to Represent International at UN

At the May meeting of the Executive Committee of our U. S. Section, the resignation of Mrs. Theodore D. (Gladys) Walser as a professional member of the staff in the capacity of accredited observer to the United Nations for the U. S. Section of the WILPF was presented and reluctantly accepted.

In accepting the resignation, the Executive Committee felt itself to be acquiescing in the considered judgment of Gladys Walser who believes she can best serve the League in the capacity of a Consultant for the International, a responsibility she has carried in recent years along with the obligations and responsibilities of the U. S. Observer. This means that our Section will stand in the same relationship to Gladys Walser and her work as every other Section of our International Organization, with no more and no less claim on her time and resources than any other Section.

It would be difficult to exaggerate the initiative, intelligence, insight and imagination which Gladys Walser brings to her work. The quantity and quality of it have made her an outstanding figure among NGOs as well as among the delegates to the United Nations, many of whom she knows as co-workers and friends.

But those of us in our League who have worked with her and know her best are aware that satisfaction for Gladys at this moment—as indeed at any time—rests not in admiration or affection, though we gladly offer both, but in a rededicated application to the issues of peace and freedom which lie ahead of us all.

From Washington to UN Headquarters in New York

by ANNALEE STEWART, Legislative Secretary, U. S. Section

Many WILPF members have had the privilege of spending a day at the UN with Gladys Walser, our accredited Observer for the U. S. Section. They will well understand my enthusiasm for the opportunities I have had to be at the tenth UN General Assembly under her guidance. Certainly, Gladys Walser's understanding and analysis and her zeal and vigorous efforts in interpreting issues in the light of WILPF policy and principles to the delegates from the member nations, have made her one of the most helpful representatives of the non-governmental organizations. Her sense of timing and ability to see what needs to be done has resulted in offering to delegates in the international body certain new approaches to problems. Whether these suggestions ever bear fruit, one can never know, but one can always hope!

This General Assembly has been facing problems such as membership in the UN, colonialism, peaceful uses of atomic energy, and the most crucial one—how to avoid a thermonuclear war which threatens the human race.

December 14 was an historic day in the annals of the General Assembly. Sixteen nations were voted into membership, and thus a long step was taken toward realizing the WILPF belief in the universality of membership. The Soviet Union was prepared to vote for the admission of Japan, provided Outer Mongolia was admitted at the same time. The unfortunate veto by Nationalist China of Outer Mongolia prevented this, but Mr. Sobolev of the USSR made it clear that they were still in favor of Japan's being considered for membership at the 11th General Assembly.

The greatest setback on colonial issues was the Assembly's decision to discontinue the UN Commission on Racial Policies (Apartheid).

The resolution on Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy was adopted unanimously. It recommended (1) a second International Conference, (2) that the established Advisory Committee be continued, (3) that an International Atomic Energy Agency be established, (4) that all members of the UN and its specialized agencies be invited to a conference on the final text of the statute of the IDEA and (5) that the Secretary General study the relation of the Agency to the UN.

The final resolution on disarmament was not unanimous due to the unwillingness of the Soviet Union to accept all parts of the four-power resolution. They objected to the absence of a collective declaration against the use of atomic weapons and to the priority given President Eisenhower's aerial inspection plan over the inspection plan of Prime Minister Bulganin. If equality had been given to the two plans, with other aspects of a comprehensive disarmament program, there might have been favorable consideration by the USSR of President Eisenhower's plan for aerial inspection.

Although the resolution was not unanimous, the Soviet Union voted for many parts of it. There may be an advantage in the fact that when the Disarmament Committee begins its work it will have to discuss all aspects of disarmament, including an evaluation of agreements resulting from the acceptance, in the May 10th Soviet proposals, of several of the Western objectives. Still to be worked out is one serious difference —that of inspection and control.

The WILPF takes great satisfaction in and attaches particular importance to the joint four-power (Canada, U. S., U. K. and France) resolution based on India's proposal for "the suspension of experimental explosions of nuclear weapons and an armaments truce", since this reflects a position long held by the WILPF.

The second session of the 84th Congress will face a year of decision on fundamental questions directly related to the issues that have been considered at the UN. WILPF members will need to study and make their views known to their Senators and Representatives on (1) drastic revision of the McCarran-Walter Immigration and Naturalization Act such as is incorporated in the Lehman-Celler Bill (S 1206 and HR 4430); (2) greatly expanded programs and funds for technical assistance and non-military economic aid to countries needing these to lift standards of living; (3) support for development of peaceful uses of atomic energy; (4) continuous and persistent efforts to encourage the President as well as Congress to give first priority to lifting the threat of thermonuclear war hanging over the world.

(Cont. on p. 4, col. 3)

Washington Seminar

Plans for a Washington Seminar have been made in order to bring together members of our WILPF Branches and National Board to study and analyze WILPF priorities as they relate to legislation in Congress and to the making of policy in the State Department and other Executive Branches of the Government. The Seminar is being planned for Legislative Chairmen, Branch Presidents and members of the National Board. It is limited to 50 persons, and the Legislative Office is reserving the right to pass on applications in the interest of the widest possible representation. It will begin on Tuesday afternoon, January 31, and end Thursday afternoon, February 2, 1956. The registration fee of $5.00 will cover cost of literature, use of facilities, and other incidentals. It is imortant to send registrations as soon as possible. Address all communications and inquiries to:

Women's International League
For Peace and Freedom,
214 Second St. N.E.,
Washington 2, D. C.

Lifting the Curtain

By Caroline Katzenstein. $4.00; Dorrance & Co. Reviewed for FOUR LIGHTS by Margaret Dungan.

A happy book, as Robert Louis Stevenson said of a happy man or woman, "is a better thing to find than a five-pound note". "Lifting the Curtain," which tells vividly the story of the enfranchisement of women in this country, is a happy book. The author writes in the joy of recording the achievement of one great victory in the long struggle for human freedom. The book is illuminated from beginning to end by the exalted spirit of the workers in the movement. Through the last ten crucial years, which fill most of the book, we see how, against the terrible strength of a custom as long as human history, the cause was won by the gentle, confident, often gay courage of women convinced of its rightness.

Through reading of the common fidelity to a great cause which united organizations of women with differing views and methods, of the highly intelligent direction of the movement, and of the wisdom and geniality by which suffragists constantly stood in friendly relations with the press and suplied the reporters with interesting news, we may learn much of how our organization can accelerate the pace of the world toward peace. This book can help us to be undaunted by the task of uprooting an iniquitous custom of prehistoric antiquity, and to know that the massive power of atomic armaments can be dissipated by those who are unafraid to oppose it.

(This book may be purchased through the Literature Dept., WILPF, 2006 Walnut Street, Phila. 3, Pa.)

To the People of China

This month we celebrate the 89th birthday of our well-loved Elder Statesman, Nobel Peace Prize Winner, Emily Greene Balch. We reprint herewith her Letter to the People of China, which has also been published in the Christian Science Monitor as well as other publications in this country, and in various journals in China. Following the publication of the poem in China, the head of the Chinese Red Cross recently extended an invitation to Miss Balch to visit that country.

Dear People of China:

This is a letter of love that I am sending you.

Men and women with your patient faces,
Little children with your bright eyes,
How could I not love you?

I am an American and what you perhaps call a capitalist.
Need that be a barrier to love?
It does not hold back mine.

Of course there are many differences between us.
The traditions of our countries are different.
There are differences even in our features,
And in our languages and religions.
But how much more we are alike!
Alike we are born to suffer.
We laugh and we cry as only men can do.

Shall fellow-men be divided by ideologies?
No. No. They shall not be so.
Of course, "coexistence" has great difficulties.
Even men who have a common country,
Who speak the same language, profess the same religion—
Even such do not find mutual understanding, mutual trust too easy.
Yet the greatest barriers are not insuperable.
Let us strive to learn to live together.
You may know bad Americans. There are such.
But there are also here friendly, right-meaning people
Who want to help make the world better for everyone.
There are bad people and good people, I suppose,
In every country.

Let us be patient with one another,
And even patient with ourselves.
We have a long, long way to go.
So let us hasten along the road,
The road of human tenderness and generosity.
Groping, we may find one another's hands in the dark.

Wellesley, Mass. Emily Balch.

Next Steps In De-segregation

In the Supreme Court decision of this year, the Judges noted that substantial steps in public school desegregation had already been taken. It is also true that the decisions have encouraged substantial steps in desegregation in other institutions in our communities. Now that implementation has been spelled out by a second decision, we can anticipate much more widespread alignment with the law.

But progress is never made without opposition. . . . There are legal forces working by technicalities to delay de-segregation. There are economic factions tending to deprive integration-intent Negroes of jobs and funds, foreclosing mortgages on homes, and boycotting Negroes from services and products available to others in the community. There are political powers attempting maneuvers to circumvent, retard, weaken and in some cases eliminate, our public schools. There are citizen's groups organized to intimidate Negroes and thus by means of fear to guarantee evasion of the Supreme Court decisions.

This opposition we must deal with because the lives not only of children but of whole families are at stake. Indeed, Democracy itself, is at stake. Sometimes we must handle the problem of the opposition directly, but essentially we must meet it by taking the initiative and giving full support to the positive program of de-segregation which our communities project . . .

A major area related to de-segregation but not specifically within the jurisdiction of the schools, is the area of housing. In a number of communities where successful desegregation has been reported, the minority number is quite small. Many communities think they have no school de-segregation problems. But as racial residence is broken down, de-segregation becomes a matter for many communities to work out. Since separate racial housing patterns tend to perpetuate separate racial schools, WILPF members may well give their attention to this major concern.

The above is taken from the excellent "Statement to WILPF Branches on the Supreme Court Decisions of 5/17/54 and 5/31/55". The full statement gives the background, content, meaning and suggested implementation of the decisions and may be ordered from the Literature Dept., 2006 Walnut St., Phila., Pa., at 5c per copy.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Here are two financial items for the New Year. One is a Ditty for Treasurers written by that Treasure of Treasurers, Mary E. Arnold, who keeps account of our Pennsylvania Branch and also oversees the finances of Jane Addams House. She is especially adept at getting in the dues of her local Branch promptly, so we urged her to tell us how she does it and put some zeal into us all.

The other is the 1956 proposed budget, drawn up by the Finance and Membership Committee and passed by the National Board at the Fall Meeting. The budget makes possible:

(1) Legislative Work
(2) Field Work
(3) Literature and "Four Lights"
(4) Other Services to Branches
(5) Support of International WILPF

It does not include: Work in the United Nations, Committee for World Development and World Disarmament, Art for World Friendship, Inter-American Work. These programs are financed by the Jane Addams Peace Fund, a tax-exempt Fund for projects of an educational nature.

Budget - - 1956

ANTICIPATED REVENUE

National Administration Account:

Dues (National Portion)	$ 6,400.00
Branch Quotas and Contributions	10,000.00
Other Contributions	20,500.00
From Balch Fund for Field Work	5,000.00
Services—Philadelphia Children's Theatre*	1,620.00
Projects: Mass Mailings	1,270.00
Fees from Speaking and Travel Expenses	800.00
Miscellaneous	600.00
	$46,190.00

Special Funds:

Literature	$ 1,250.00
Four Lights	2,000.00
International Associate Dues and Contributions to International	6,000.00
	$ 9,250.00
TOTAL	$55,440.00

APPROPRIATIONS

National Administration Account:

Salaries	$32,380.00
Taxes (4%)	1,295.00
Washington Office:	
Rent, Heat, Light, Janitor	1,200.00
Supplies and Equipment	400.00
Telephone and Telegraph	400.00
Petty Cash	400.00
Philadelphia Office:	
Rent, Heat, Light, Janitor	2,100.00
Supplies and Equipment	1,200.00
Telephone and Telegraph	600.00
Postage	500.00
Printing (Other Than Literature)	400.00
Petty Cash	200.00
Travel (including Field Work)	3,700.00
Miscellaneous	50.00
Repay Balch Loan	1,365.00
	$46,190.00

Special Funds:

Literature	$ 1,250.00
Four Lights	2,000.00
International Associate Dues and Contributions to International	6,000.00
	$9,250.00
TOTAL	$55,440.00

* The Children's Theatre pays rent of $55 a month to Jane Addams House.

To Treasurers

Canto I

A treasurer's lot, we know full well,
Is not a care-free one,
And that is why we want to tell
Just how the job is done.

When cool October days are come
And life is at its best,
Send out a "billy due" to each home.
(The 1st we would suggest.)

When chill November days are due
And skies are dark and drear,
Send out a second notice to
Each member in arrear.

November 15, on the dot,
Your trusty phone you use,
And call each member, who has not
Promptly sent in her dues.

Canto II

When in response to call and smile,
Dues come in by the score,
And every member in your file
Has paid his dues—or more!

Then list your members clear and fair
On forms at your command;
In your own bank deposit there
The checks you have in hand.
(And for heaven's sake, be sure that the total on your list agrees with the total on your bank book.)

Then draw two checks, O Treasurer, dear,
Keep one for thine and thee (local Branch)
And send the other to us here (National office)
And welcome will it be.

And so when Christmas time so gay
Takes all you have, and more,
With quiet conscience go your way
For you have done your chore.

(Or if you didn't quite make the grade this year, bear up, and do a bang-up job in 1956.)

Radio Program Prizes

Cash prizes totalling $2,000 will be awarded for the best 15 minute local radio programs presented during the first 6 months of 1956 on the subject, "Action for Peace in Our Town". For further information write to: Institute for International Order, 11 W. 42nd St., New York 36, N. Y.

FROM WASHINGTON TO UN

(Cont. from p. 2, col. 3)

The voices of the people must be heard in the community and in Washington if the leaders, bound to our outmoded belief in security based on "peace through strength", are to be persuaded to turn in the direction of peace through world disarmament and political settlements through negotiation. In this way the energies, money, resources, minds and hearts of the world can help defeat the major enemies—hunger, poverty, disease and ignorance.